

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are currently pending. In an Office Action dated June 27, 2007, claims 2-6, 9, 17-21, 24, 34, 36, and 39 were objected to, and claims 1, 7, 8, 10-16, 22, 23, 25-33, 35, 37, 38, and 40-47 were rejected. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering the present application.

By way of this reply, claims 2, 7, 9, 10, 13-15, 17, 22, 24, 25, 28-30, 34-37, 39, 40, 43-45 have been amended and claims 1, 16, 31-33, 46 and 47 have been canceled. Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

In the 11th paragraph of the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 2-6, 9, 17-21, 24, 34, 36, and 39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 9, 17, 24, 34, 36, and 39 have been amended to be rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the corresponding base claim. Therefore, the amended independent claims are allowable, as the Examiner noted in the Office Action. Each of claims 3-8, 10-15, 18-23, 25-30, 35, 37, 38, and 40-45 is dependent on one of the allowable amended independent claims and thereby incorporates by reference all the limitations of the parent claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-15, 17-30, and 34-45 as amended are allowable and request allowance of them.

In addition, Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the number provided below if the Examiner believes it will help expedite furtherance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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